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FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
TO: BREMER/COVEY/RODMAN
FOR GEN. SCOWCROFT

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WHITE HOUSE
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C A B L E

TO: PETER RODMAN -- FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: MARGI VANDERHYE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S Q & A BOOK

The Q's and A's being sent for the President's use in a press conference include those that will need reworking -- among them a question on SALT. Suggested responses to questions on the U. S. support for the OAS resolution on Cuba have been sent (ref: TO HAK 051). Two new Q's and A's on the Middle East are included -- one on HAWK sales to Jordan approved by Assistant Secretary Atherton and one on reports (Boston Globe) that the Israelis possess nuclear weapons and would use them if their survival were threatened in a Middle East war.

For your use in preparing guidance on European issues we are sending the President's statement following the Turkish suspension of U. S. activities at joint defense installations.

PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Q. In light of the Snyder Amendment approved by the House and in light of a newspaper story which says you plan to postpone conclusions on Panama Canal Treaty negotiations until after the election for political reasons, can you tell us the status of these negotiations and your views on these negotiations.

A. As you know, during the last three Administrations the United States has been discussing our differences with Panama over the canal. There are a number of questions which still remain at issue between us and the Panamanians. The discussions are continuing. The goal is to reach an agreement which would accommodate the interests of both nations while protecting our basic interests in defense and operation of the canal. Naturally any such agreement we will reach will be submitted to the full constitutional process including Senate approval, and we will be consulting closely with the Congress as the discussions continue.

There are a number of difficult questions remaining to be resolved. I have no intention of approving or proposing Congress any agreement with Panama or any one else that would not protect our vital defense interests.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 25, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I deeply regret the announcement of the Government of Turkey to suspend all American activities at joint U.S.-Turkish defense installations and to take over control and supervision of these important installations.

I repeatedly warned the House of Representatives of extremely serious consequences, such as this, if the United States failed to restore military sales and credits to our Turkish allies. I again want to praise those House members of both parties who voted in the national interest. Now, as a result of yesterday's 223-206 vote in the House of Representatives, Turkey has today announced actions which I believe will work to the detriment of critically important U.S. security interests.

In view of these damaging developments, I urge the House of Representatives to reconsider its refusal to restore the traditional U.S.-Turkish defense relationship. Prompt, affirmative action by the House of Representatives is essential to the vital national defense interests of the United States, our partners in the Eastern Mediterranean, and our allies in the Atlantic Alliance.

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HAWKS FOR JORDAN

Q. What is the effect of the action announced by Senator Case today to withdraw the letter of offer on the Hawk Missile?

A. Let me explain precisely what has been done. On Monday July 28 Deputy Secretary Ingersoll sent a letter to Chairman Sparkman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Chairman Morgan of the House International Relations Committee setting out what the Administrations' proposal.

The 20-day waiting period under the Nelson Amendment expired July 30, and in our consultations with Congress it had become evident that more time was needed to consider the Hawk sale. We, therefore, worked out with the Committees an arrangement for resubmitting the notification on this sale within a time framework which will permit us to continue our discussion with Congress after the August recess. The letter stated that the Administration would resubmit a new notification of the Letter of Offer on the Hawk missile sale to Congress prior to the expiration of the letter then before the two houses. This permitted 20 more days for Congressional action, as required by law. But since Congress will be in recess during August, we also said that we would again resubmit the letter when this next 20-day period expired, and if necessary, we would submit it again following

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the expiration of the subsequent 20 days.

This will provide a full 20-day period, if necessary, within the month of September for Congress to consider this Letter of Offer, and permits further time for us to work with Congress in an effort to reach agreement. We are happy such a means has been found to permit continuing discussion of this issue with the Congress.

Q. Are you scaling down the proposal?

A. We are simply resubmitting the same notification on the Hawk sale that has been before the Congress. There has been no change. We are just arranging for more time work out, if possible, an agreed means for dealing with the matter. We hope this will in fact prove possible.

Q. Has King Hussein agreed to this arrangement?

A. We have kept in close touch with him. He, of course, would have preferred to move ahead promptly, but we have explained and he understands our reasons for making the arrangements.

Q. What happens on the Vulcan letter of offer?

A. Since the Congress did not register objection to the letter of offer on the Vulcans within a 20-day period (which ended July 30)--

are now in a position to enter discussions with the Jordanians
on how to proceed.

Q. Then is the Administration still prepared to go ahead on the
Vulcans?

A. Yes, we are prepared to go ahead, but we have to discuss
the matter with King Hussein.

ISRAELI NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Q. Do you have any comment on the Beecher article in today's Boston Globe that Israel has more than ten nuclear weapons? Can you confirm or deny that Israel has, in fact, nuclear weaponry capability?

A. I have no comment on that specific story. I would only note that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin has said, in an interview on Danish television last December 17, that "We are not a nuclear power, which means that we have no nuclear weapons." He also reported Israeli policy "that our policy is not to be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Q. What is the U.S. position on Israeli possession of nuclear weapons?

A. As I have just noted, Prime Minister Rabin has reported the Israeli policy that Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East. As you know, the United States strongly objects to the introduction of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and firmly believes that every nation should adhere to the principles of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

FYI: At the July 31 State Department briefing the above questions were asked and approximately the same responses were given.

MIKI VISIT

Q. Why is Japanese Prime Minister Miki visiting Washington at this time, and what do you plan to discuss with him?

A. Prime Minister Miki is making an official visit to the United States August 2-8 -- and will be in Washington August 3-7 -- as another in the periodic high-level meetings between the leaders of our two countries. As befits our relationship with Japan, our major ally in Asia and a leading world power, we will exchange views on a wide range of issues concerning peace in Asia and progress on multilateral and global problems.

Q. When was the last high-level meetings between United States and Japanese leaders?

A. I visited Japan last November, the first visit of an American President in office to Japan. Former Prime Minister Tanaka visited Washington in mid-1973.